

# Guiding Members through Youth Facilitation

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## **Scheduling for Youth Facilitation**

Facilitation should fit around members' primary service obligation and into their regular schedule as much as possible. Identifying a youth partner early in the program year can help ensure that a schedule is created that works well for everyone involved. Being able to fit in youth facilitation time should be a consideration when creating members' schedules at the beginning of the program year. If possible, consider scheduling the youth facilitation during the time already set aside for team meetings.

## **Planning for Youth Facilitation**

Giving members time to plan their facilitation of the *Roadmap* with youth is important. The better prepared members are, the more likely they are to feel comfortable facilitating. They -- and the youth participants -- are also more likely to have fun during the process if members are well-prepared for facilitation. Like the facilitation time, planning time should be a consideration when creating members' schedules at the beginning of the year. Team meetings could be utilized for this purpose. Since all members have to help with the youth facilitation in some way, those not directly facilitating can support those who are.

## **Guiding and Coaching Members through Youth Facilitation**

Depending on how much facilitation experience members have, they may need varying levels of support throughout the youth process. The Youth Facilitation Guide can be used in a variety of ways to support members (see the Guide's FAQ). Some other ways to help support members throughout the facilitation could include:

### **Before Members Facilitate**

- ⇒ Provide members with training opportunities on facilitation skills, such as the facilitation workshop specifically geared towards facilitating the *Roadmap* with youth offered at SERVES.
- ⇒ Encourage members to facilitate portions of team meetings as applicable.
- ⇒ Give them additional tools to walk them through the stages of planning facilitation, such as outlines to use when planning CE sessions.

### **While Members Facilitate**

- ⇒ Provide or give them pointers on how to acquire basic facilitation supplies, such as markers, flip chart paper, etc.
- ⇒ Give them opportunities to share ideas and brainstorm with each other.

## **After Members Facilitate**

- ⇒ Provide an opportunity for members to debrief and reflect on their facilitation experience.
- ⇒ Any suggestions members have to improve the CE process can be sent to your WSC Program Coordinator to be incorporated into future Program Years.

## **Ways to Ensure that All Members are Involved in the Youth Portion**

In order to fulfill the CE requirement, all members must be involved in the youth portion of the CE process. However, not all members have to facilitate the *Roadmap* with youth. Other ways to involve members in the process include:

- ⇒ Supporting the members who are facilitating with youth. This could include helping to find a youth partner or preparing supplies as necessary (e.g. making copies of handouts, preparing the supplies for art activities).
- ⇒ Planning and/or facilitating exploratory service projects for the youth. Exploratory service projects can be an excellent way to keep youth engaged throughout the facilitation process. Planning them takes quite a bit of time, however, and members who are busy facilitating may not have the extra time needed to plan these projects.
- ⇒ Helping with the youth project. While youth participants should primarily be in charge of planning efforts for their project, members can help out throughout the process or during the project itself.